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Marcia Rundle wins Truman Scholarship

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IMMEDIATELY

MARCIA RUNDLE WINS TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP

eidel/jg
4/28/78
dailies +
special

MISSOULA--

Marcia Rundle is a busy woman. Like more and more Montanans, she is combining a family and community interests with a return to school. And this month the University of Montana sophomore was named Montana's 1978 Truman Scholar.

The scholarship is awarded to one student from each of 50 states and three territories who plans a career in government service. It provides up to \$5,000 a year in educational expenses for four years of undergraduate and graduate study.

Rundle, a 29-year-old political science-history and philosophy major, will remain at the University of Montana to finish her undergraduate degree and then plans graduate study in law and public administration.

A faculty committee chose Rundle as UM's scholarship candidate on the basis of her grade transcript, an essay and letters of recommendation. Following a general qualifying test she became a semi-finalist from Montana. She competed in regional interviews in Seattle and was chosen as Montana's scholar by the Board of Directors of the Truman Foundation.

Although her career plans aren't specific, Rundle's commitment to public service has been a natural evolution. "My interest grew out of participation," she said.

Before moving to Missoula, the Rundles lived for six years in Malta where Marcia's husband, Skip, worked as a band director. There she cared for their four children and was involved in the local Women's Club.

Rundle said the family's years in Malta were "special" but when her youngest son, who is now 8, started first grade, it was time for a change and her turn to go to college.

Since the family's move to Missoula, Rundle has remained involved in local affairs as a member of Common Cause and Friends of the Rattlesnake Education. And although she doesn't see politics as a career for herself, she's an active participant in Dan Kemmis' campaign for a Missoula seat in the state legislature. "I think politics should be part of everyone's life," she said.

Rundle also is interested in the Equal Rights Amendment, which was the topic of her scholarship essay. "I think it's fundamentally important that women have equal access to opportunities. It must be a national commitment, part of the basic law of the land."

But what does her family think of her involvement? "They're very supportive. We all pretty much work together. That's the only way it would work."

Both Rundle and her husband are natives of Glasgow and plan to make Montana their home. "We're very committed to Montana and will return even if we leave for graduate school," she said.

When they return, Rundle hopes to work with a government agency within the state.

The scholarship foundation was established by Congress in 1976 as a memorial to President Truman. Rundle, along with the 52 other scholarship recipients, will attend an awards ceremony at the Truman Memorial Library in Independence, Mo., May 1.

Thomas Melton, Montana's first Truman Scholar, was also a University of Montana student. He now attends Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

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